Vol. III. Num. 46.

THE OBSERVATOR.

Of the Viciſſitude of Humane Affairs. Of the Particular Intereſt of England *in this War, in relation to the* Spaniſh Weſt-Indies. *Of the News from* France *concerning the Fight in* Bavaria. *Of a* Jacobite *Apothecary.*

From **Saturday** Auguſt the 26th, to **Wednesday** Auguſt the 30th, 1704.

Country-m. MAſter *Obſervator*, you are much in the Dumps, and yet you rejoice at the good News too. For my part I am ſo full of Joy that I have ſhaken Hands with Melancholly: I never deſign to be ſorry again as long as I live.

Obſ. You may find your ſelf wonderfully miſtaken. The Heavens themſelves are not always Serene; there is a Viciſſitude in Humane Affairs, as well as in Nature; as often the Heavens ſmile on us for a long time together, ſo that we think we have an Eternal Spring, and the Influences of the Heavens are to continue benign to Mortal Men; yet ſoon the Air is fill'd with noxious Corruſcations, or the Clouds are condens'd into Darkſome Bodies, which empty themſelves on the Earth, in Storms of Rain and Hail. We find the Fate of Private Families have their Viciſſitudes, and Changes of Fortune, much more that of Kingdoms and Empires, *Nunc Serges eſt Ubi* Troja *fuit.* The Famous Metropolis of the *Trojans*, is now the ſeat of Shepherds and Husbandmen. You your ſelf know not but that you now ſow your Corn where Princely Palaces, or thoſe of the Nobility, have formerly ſtood.

No Man can rejoice more at our Succeſs Abroad, and the Relations of our Victories, than my ſelf; but my Pain for *England* can never be over, till I ſee thoſe Home Vipers torn from the Boſom of our Nation, thoſe innumerable Troops of *Jacobites* and *Nonjurors*, that in Talk, and Print, can Aſperſe the Beſt of Queens, and the Beſt of Governments. Can *England* be ſafe while theſe are not Curb'd? And are they not Tollerated while they are not Proſecuted?

I would not have you think I ſpeak this out of any Reſentment I have conceiv'd, by reaſon theſe People are not Proſecuted, and I am. I thank God I can depend on his Providence, the Juſtice of my Cauſe, and the Verdict of my Country, and am ready to ſtand Tryal upon an Information, Compos'd of all the Books and Papers ever I Wrote; provided the Enemies of our Government may be Proſecuted only for the Books they have Written ſince Her Majeſties Happy Acceſſion to the Throne; and I muſt lay it down for a Fundamental Truth and Maxim, *That* England *can never be Safe, while its Enemies are ſuffer'd to Write againſt our Conſtitution, the preſent Settlement, and the Succeſſion of the Houſe of* Hannover.

I know Miniſters, and Perſons in great Places in the Government, will ſay this is none of my Buſineſs, and that I ought not to take Notice of the Sins neither of Omiſſion, or Commiſſion, of thoſe employ'd in Eminent Stations. But certainly the Liberties of my Dear Country are as valuable to me as to the greateſt Perſon in the Kingdom; and no Man has a greater Share of them than my ſelf. One may be Born a Lord, another a Squire, a third a Gentleman, but certainly we are all Born *Engliſhmen* on the ſame Foot of Priviledge, and the Valuable Liberties of *Engliſhmen*, left them by their Anceſtors, are not parcell'd out in larger Immunities to ſome than others. We are all of us Co-Heirs to our Free-Birth Rights, and every Man in *England*, is more obliged to take care of his Property, than of his Eſtate.

If every Man in *England* is thus Intereſted in the Freedoms of his Country, certainly 'tis every Mans Buſineſs to ſee how thoſe Freedoms are ſecured, in what Repair their Fences and Barriers are kept: We have all of us alſo a Right in the Queen and Her Crown: We are Bound to defend Her, to keep all Evil from Her, that nothing may hurt Her; and how ſhall we know any thing of Her Safety, if we do not enquire into it? We muſt ſee how well the Throne is Guarded, who are the Men, of what Diſpoſition, Inclination, and Intereſt: For, Honeſt *Country-man*, the *Engliſh* Conſtitution is ſuch, that the Prerogatives of the Crown, and the Liberties of the People, muſt ſtand or fall together; they cannot ſubſiſt ſeparately, without the Deſtruction of the beſt Conſtitution in the World.

You may wonder why I launch out into this Diſcourſe, and keep you from your Merry Remarks on your Fighting Stories; perhaps I have ſome Views that may compoſe me to a Serious Temper, and ſuch too as are not to be made Publick: I am cenſur'd for making Remarks already on the particular Intereſt of *England*, and on Great Men employ'd in the Government. I Challenge the greateſt Enemy in the World to ſay that ever I reflected on any Perſon that has done us a National Service; I have given them their Juſt Encomiums; and for ſuch as either do nothing, or Act againſt our Country, who ſhall Praiſe them in the Gates of *England?*

Country-m. I heard ſome *Jacks* ſay, that you'll be paid off for Reflecting on our Sea Mannagement. For your Countries ſake, have a care of your ſelf.

Obſ. I hope the Twenty Cut-Throats don't deſign to Aſſaſſinate me; they had better go to Sea, and *Colepeper* the Count *de Tholouſe*. As I am not my own Maker, ſo I am not my own Preſerver, I have a ſure Friend to depend upon for my Safety, the great Creator of the Univerſe and of all Intellectual Beings, and no one can Injure me under his Protection: If he has deſigned me for his Service, that of my Country, and that Service I ſhall perform, maugre all the Machinations of Evil Men againſt me. I want neither Courage to defend my Perſon, nor Prudence to keep my ſelf out of ſuch Company as would Swear away my Life.

Country-m

Country-m. For Gods ſake have a care of your ſelf; I would have no Man get a Place by cutting of your Throat. I find the *Jacks* and *High-Flyers* are imbitter'd againſt you for what you have ſaid of the particular Intereſt of *England* in this War.

Obſ. And yet I muſt ſay a little more on that Subject: If *England* may be gainers by the War, or at leaſt get ſomething to compenſate part of the great Charge of the War, that Intereſt we ought to look after: If we take ſuch Places as *Gibralter* and *Ceuta*, theſe Places, after a great Expence in keeping them, muſt be delivered up at the Concluſion of a Peace; but what we take in the *Weſt-Indies* is our own, and we may keep it for the Crown of *England*.

I could here enlarge upon the Advantages to the *Engliſh* Nation, in having ſome Settlements in the *Spaniſh Weſt-Indies*, which we may procure in this War. But, certainly, a ſufficient Guard in thoſe parts would be a great Security to our Merchants Traders, if we do not Annoy the Enemy by taking their Settlements, we might preſerve our Merchants Ships from being taken by the Enemy, who have ſeldom leſs than 100 Sail of our Shipping at *Martinico*.

Had we due Encouragement given to Privateers, the private Intereſt of Merchants would ſecure us Settlements in thoſe parts without any Charge to the Publick. I don't ſee any more Profitable Adventure, than for Private Perſons in a Joint Stock to make Acquiſitions in the *Spaniſh Weſt-Indies*, when they may for ever hold what they ſhall take. I could ſay a great deal more, but I leave room for the Readers Conſideration. ——— Haſt got any News?

Country-m. I have enquir'd among the Folks that can *Parle* about what the *French* Gazette ſays of the Duke of *Marlborough*'s Victory, and they tell me that the Grand Tyrant is very much Indiſpoſed, his Heart is got below his Belt, he's very Chagrine, and looks as ſower as if he Drank nothing but Vinegar and Verjuice; but his chief Dependance is ſtill on his Old Dad, the Father of Lies. The Letters from *Paris* ſay, That the *Engliſh* and *Dutch* have loſt a Power of Men, but mention nothing of their own Armies being Routed, nor of the long String of *French* Generals that the Duke has March'd to *Franckfort*: Lord! What a profound Ignorance do the Slaves of *France* live in, that know nothing of the State of their own Country.

Obſ. And if ſome People could have their Wills we ſhould do the ſame in *England*; but I wonder the *French* Gazette has not yet told us, That the Confederates were Routed, and that the Duke of *Marlborough* was taken a Priſoner; they have had the Impudence to advance as great Falſhoods, when the matter of Fact has been as viſible and clear.

Country-m. There's a Friend of the *French* Tyrants taken into Cuſtody, and a bitter Enemy of yours.

Obſ. Prithee who's that?

Country-m. Why the *Jacobite* Apothecary that Married the *Bull* to the *Cow*.

Obſ. Poor Fellow; what was he Pounded for Talking Nonſenſe or Treaſon?

Country-m. Bleſs me! ſhould we Pound all the *Jacobites* that talk Nonſence, we muſt build a Goal bigger than the four Quarters of *Moreſields*; No, no, he was taken up for Words againſt the Government.

Obſ. And would not the *Aſſa-fœtida* Juſtice ſtand his Friend?

Country-m. Alack-a-day, the Fundament-Driver was a great way from Home, he had been us'd to talk Treaſon in the Coffee-Houſes at *London* without Interruption, and thought he might do ſo in the Country, but he found himſelf miſtaken, the Honeſt Country People Secured him, and have Bound him over. I hope 'twill teach him more Manners for the future.

Obſ. No, no, if you bray that Fool in his own Mortar, he'll come out the ſame incorrigible Blockhead.

Country-m. Well, but you ſee the Honeſty of the Country People, and their Affection to Her Majeſty and Her Government, they Reſent what is ſaid againſt Both.

Obſ. Truly, that is the greateſt hope I have of the Safety of *England*. The Common People are on Her Majeſties ſide and their own, and here lye the Numbers that are the Security of the Nation; theſe People live of their ſelves and have no Dependance on Great Men; they are aw'd neither by Intereſt, nor the Expectation of Preferments upon Revolutions, which always affect the middle ſort of People, without any Advantage to them. Come let us drink a good Health to this ſort of People, and then good Night.

Adverti ſements.

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